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COUNTRY East Germany NOFORN REPORT TOPIC Construction Work at Wolfsburg Airfield

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 25 August 1955REFERENCES PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 20 and 26 June 1955, about 650 workers were employed on construction work at Wolfsburg airfield. Oberbauleiter (construction supervisor) Schoenefelder (fnu) was in charge of the construction site. He was assisted by Supervisor Lehmann (fnu). Concreting work on the taxiway, which was called "Road 80a", was completed. The lanes connecting the taxiway and the runway were, however, still without a concrete surface. The drainage system which led in steps from the airfield to a brook south of the field, was completed. The drainage pipes were being covered with earth. A small villa located near a silo in the vicinity of Point 14.3 is said to be used by a Soviet major. It was unknown if he had anything to do with the airfield.

2. Construction work at the field was delayed by a shortage of labor, especially skilled workers, and the poor physical status of the building machines used. Many of the machines were out of operation for prolonged periods because of repair work required. The dead-lined machines could not be replaced. For this reason the schedules fixed for construction work could not be kept. Between 20 and 26 June 1955 the pipes of locomotives employed at the field burst several times. It was first suspected that sabotage activities were involved. After thorough investigations it was found out, however, that the lime used for these locomotives contained so much lime that the pipes were corroded from within. The break down of locomotives meant an additional delay in the execution of construction work at the airfield.

Comment. Information available on the status of concreting work on the taxiway is not precise. It is believed that the taxiway will be completed in the summer of this year. Late November 1955 was reported as being the date set for the completion of the entire installation.

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